



REV. T. W. HENDERSON.

## THE ANNUAL N. E. CONFERENCE

Of the A. M. E. Church Which Convened at Bethel Church in Providence,

Providence, R. I., Special.—The Annual Conference of the A. M. E. Church of the First Episcopal Diocese was regularly opened at the Bethel church Meeting street, on Wednesday morning, June 5. Rev. C. C. Dunlop, pastor of the church had made great preparations for the convenience of the Conference and his efforts were rewarded by a most successful arrangement.

On Tuesday evening as a preliminary to the opening session there was an organ recital by Prof. Reed after which the Rev. S. Timothy Tice, pastor of St. Paul's A. M. E. church, Cambridge, Mass., addressed his hearers using as his subject a criticism of William H.



BISHOP W. B. DERRICK.

Thomas' book, "The American Negro." Dr. Tice vigorously denounced the charges made against the race by the author of the aforesaid book.

On Wednesday at 10:30 a. m. the session was opened with devotional exercises conducted by Rev. W. T. Henderson, Rev. J. T. Jenifer and Rev. S. T. Tice, after which the records of the day were read and approved and the morning session was closed with the reports of the several churches of the district. Bishop W. B. Derrick, presiding officer of the Conference, made an address in the afternoon advising the members as to how they should conduct the affairs of the Church always seeking to be guided by such principles as should gain added membership to the Church and devoted friends for the race. He also spoke briefly on the great work which is being done by Booker T. Washington for the upbuilding of the Afro-American and emphasized that he should be regarded as one of the foremost men of the Negro race.

The evening session was devoted al-

most wholly to the discussion of the condition of the churches and the great increase in membership. In the course of the remarks it was stated that the total number of churches consisted of 5,000 with a membership of 750,000; there are 23 schools and colleges and the denomination publishes two weekly papers, one monthly and a quarterly review.

Devotional exercises attended with much enthusiasm and religious fervor opened the session on Thursday at the close of which Dr. J. M. Henderson addressed the Conference basing his remarks upon the work of the Allen Legion of which he is the secretary. After speaking of the completion of the Allen tomb at Philadelphia in which the remains of Richard Allen, founder of the Church, Dr. Henderson stated that the object of the Allen Legion was to bring the young people into closer relation with the Church and it was their purpose to perpetuate the Legion with the memory of the founder. Bishop Derrick also spoke of the great and good principles upon which Richard Allen based his life's work and urged the ministry to emulate these principles and thereby consummate the great work which they have before them. Later in the day reports were read by the Educational, Missionary and Admission Boards. There were several young men graduates of the Yale Theological Seminary and Lincoln University who passed successful examinations and were thus admitted to the Conference.

Friday afternoon was devoted largely to the great work being accomplished by Payne's Theological Seminary and Wilberforce College in the line of educating young men and especially in training them so that the Church might be prepared to send out more men to fill the ministry.

In the evening the women of the church conducted the session which was presided over by Mrs. W. H. Thomas of Boston, president of the Conference Mite Society. Dr. H. B. Parks, Secretary of Home and Foreign Missions addressed the meeting telling of the successful missionary work which had been already done in Africa and the West Indies, and urged that a continuance of the same might be assured and that the missionary workers in those might be cared for by and through a co-operation of the several pastors. In conclusion he spoke of the invaluable work which the women had done for the support of the Conference. A good collection was then raised for missionary purposes.

The session Saturday was opened with devotional exercises in charge of the young men who have just been admitted to membership. At the close of this service Bishop Derrick asked for the reports from the several committees. Rev. C. C. Dunlop reported for the Committee on Education. He stated with much emphasis that what was most needed in the A. M. E.

churches was a thoroughly and completely educated ministry. He farther said that it was not enough to merely secure an industrial education, but that in order to keep abreast of the times we must so cultivate, so educate the mental faculties as to be able successfully to cope with the great questions of the day. Such a condition of affairs he maintained would prove a blessing to mankind. The next report was up on the subject of temperance which was warmly discussed by nearly every pastor who was present. Not only the use of intoxicating liquors but also that of tobacco was strongly protested against.

The School and College report was next given stating that a great good had been accomplished by the colleges which are supported by this Church.



REV. P. A. HUBBARD

Special mention being made of the work of Wilberforce College and Payne Theological Seminary. The Connection maintains 20 colleges, 165 teachers and 5287 students.

The evening session was spent in discussing the character of the ministers and others who had been in attendance at this Conference.

Sunday was what might be termed a "big day in Bethel." Large crowds thronged the church from early morning till night and services of a very interesting nature were held throughout the day. The morning services were conducted by Rev. Leak. In the afternoon Children's Day was celebrated at which time a large collection was lifted for the support of the Sunday-school Union and the Church Extension Department. At 3 o'clock Dr. P. A. Hubbard preached an interesting sermon and at night the Conference was addressed by Rev. H. B. Parks.

Monday was the last day of the Conference. At the morning session Bishop Derrick directed the whole Confer-



LATE BISHOP M. M. MOORE.

ence to offer prayer for the recovery of Mrs. McKinley and for divine blessings to be showered upon the President in his present distress. The Bishop presided at the evening session, several reports were read including the report on memoirs which showed that during the past Conference year death had removed Bishop M. M. Moore and Presiding Elder Hayslett. Heartfelt sympathies were tendered the families of the deceased and the sum of \$38 was contributed towards the support of the widow of Elder Hayslett. After reading the appointments the Conference

was brought to an end.

It was one of the most successful sessions ever held in this district. Rev. C. C. Dunlop, pastor of the Bethel A. M. E. church and Rev. J. A. Hagan, pastor of the A street church were returned to this city for another year.

W. W.

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